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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/591,497	08/16/2007	Arnaud Premartin	29548-4U/S6X PCT	1939
22850 7590 02/04/2011 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER ELKINS, GARY E				
ART UNIT 3782		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 02/04/2011		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/591,497

Applicant(s)

PREMARTIN ET AL.

Examiner

Gary E. Elkins

Art Unit

3782

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-859)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20060901
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 11, lines 7 and 8, "is shown by an arrow" is unclear in meaning and scope. If the intent is to reference the drawings as part of the claim, note is made of MPEP 608.01(m) as regards the inclusion of reference numerals from the drawings in the claims. The use of characters from the drawings in a claim is considered as having no effect on the scope of the claim and should be enclosed within parentheses to avoid confusion.

In claim 11, lines 13-15 and lines 16-19 are each unclear. Each section indicates that a "state" of the locking means is being defined. However, the recitations "in which movement..." in each section is defining movement rather than a single state, i.e. the recitations each appear to be defining going from one state to another rather than a single state as set forth.

In claim 11, each of lines 11 and 14, "it" is unclear with respect to the previous element referred to.

In claim 11, line 12, "the free end of the lever" lacks antecedent basis in the claim.

In claim 11, lines 13, 16 and 17, "the pin" is unclear since a plurality of pins were previously defined in the claim, i.e. which of the previous plurality of pins is being referred to? Also, "the pin" in each of claims 14-18 is unclear for the same reason.

In claim 12, "contrived" is unclear with respect to whether one is thinking or intending to provide a groove or a groove is positively being claimed.

In claim 15, “a distance corresponding to a distance” is redundant.

In claim 17, line 3, “the distance between the pin and the pin” is unclear in meaning.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abbott et al (US 5,244,133) (fig. 5 emb). Abbott et al discloses a load carrier with an arm 14, 72 which is configured to cooperate with a sleeve H. The carrier includes a lever 80 which is mounted via the element 86 to rotate about a pin 88 in the arm. Return means 108 is formed between the arm and the lever. Locking means is formed by a handle 102 with an outer gripping part 110 and part 86 including a cam mounted via a transverse pin 92 to the lever 80. It is noted that the cam includes a leading point 98 as claimed. With respect to claims 12 and 13, note is made of the flat portion of the cam which is considered to form a groove as claimed.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 16-20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The remaining cited prior art is illustrative of the general state of the art.

Any inquiry related this office action or any other office action for this application should be directed to Examiner Gary Elkins at the number listed below.

Art Unit: 3782

If the Examiner is unavailable and you need to talk to someone sooner, the Examiner's supervisor, Mr. Nathan Newhouse may be contacted at the number listed below.

Information regarding the status of an application may also be obtained by accessing the PAIR system. Information about the PAIR system can be obtained at the website <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov> or by contacting the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197 (toll free). You may also contact a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access the automated information system at 1-800-786-9199 (in USA or Canada) or 1-571-272-1000.

/Gary E. Elkins/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3782

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